

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 16 are pending and stand rejected. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1 to 16 have been amended to recite, inter alia, "A protocol data unit ...". Each of claims 1 to 16 is directed to a new or improved machine, within the categories defined as patentable subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,621,814 (Korpi) for the reasons given in paragraph 3 of the Office Action.

Korpi sets forth a method and apparatus for the transmission of voice data in packets with additional supplementary services.

Examiner notes that Korpi discloses a method of encoding additional supplementary services in a fashion compatible with the existing protocol of transmitting the existing standard supplementary services, citing column 3, lines 27-62. From a reading of the cited passage, it is evident that Korpi accomplishes this objective through the use of a specialized "interface unit". The function of this "interface unit" is described in greater detail at numerous locations in the Korpi specification (e.g. column 4, lines 15-16; column 4, lines 54-56; column 5, lines 54-57; etc.), wherein it is made abundantly clear that the interface unit

functions to modify the signaling protocol between the switching equipment and the terminal equipment. As such, the interface unit in Korpi functions as a “protocol converter”. For its operation, Korpi requires numerous such interface units (e.g. conversion unit 50, conversion unit 52, conversion unit 54, conversion unit 56, etc. of Figure 2) to effect the required protocol conversion.

Applicant's claims, as amended, set forth a protocol data unit encoded in accordance with a simple supplementary services protocol and carried via messages over an existing protocol for network communications, without the requirement of any “interface unit” or “conversion unit” as required by Korpi. Applicant's protocol data unit encoded in accordance with the revised claim elements provides an elegant solution requiring only an identifier field, an end tag field and a parameters extension field. More particularly, as recited in claim 2, the protocol data unit is encoded using alphanumeric string encoding and is transmitted within a non-standard data field of H.323 messages. This claimed transport mechanism allows for simple communication of messages between entities such as gatekeepers and endpoints, or between endpoints.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early and favorable action is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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